

Introduced by Senator Kehoe

February 16, 2007

An act to add Section 311.6 to the Public Utilities Code, relating to the Public Utilities Commission.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 312, as introduced, Kehoe. Public Utilities Commission: access to filings.

Under existing law, the Public Utilities Commission has regulatory authority over public utilities and can establish its own procedures, subject to statutory restrictions and constitutional requirements of due process. Existing law requires the Public Utilities Commission to provide on its Internet Web site the means by which consumers may submit informal complaints through electronic means if the dollar amount does not exceed the jurisdictional limit of a small claims court. Existing law requires the commission to determine the feasibility of submitting advice letters to the commission through electronic means, and if determined to be feasible, to propose a plan for submitting advice letters by electronic means within 6 months of the date of that determination. Existing law requires the commission to publish and maintain certain documents and information, including making available on the commission's Internet Web site, the commission's annual work plan, general orders, and Rules of Practice and Procedure, the proposed and alternate proposed decisions and resolutions, the agenda, agenda item documents, rulings of the commission, and adopted decisions and resolutions of the commission.

This bill would require the commission to make the documents, filings, testimony, rulings, and decisions in all open proceedings accessible on its Internet Web site.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
2 following:
3 (a) It is in the public interest to encourage and facilitate public
4 participation in the decisionmaking process of the Public Utilities
5 Commission.
6 (b) It is in the public interest for decisionmaking by the Public
7 Utilities Commission to be as transparent as reasonably possible.
8 (c) California law has consistently striven to foster open access
9 as indicated by the California Public Records Act (Chapter 3.5
10 (commencing with Section 6250) of Division 7 of Title 1 of the
11 Government Code), the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act (Article
12 9 (commencing with Section 11120) of Chapter 1 of Part 1 of
13 Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code), and provisions
14 providing for intervenor compensation (Article 5 (commencing
15 with Section 1801) of Chapter 9 of Part 1 of Division 1 of the
16 Public Utilities Code).
17 (d) The Public Utilities Commission should make its proceedings
18 accessible to the public over the Internet, including providing
19 public access to documents, filings, testimony, rulings, and
20 decisions.
21 SEC. 2. Section 311.6 is added to the Public Utilities Code, to
22 read:
23 311.6. The commission shall make the documents, filings,
24 testimony, rulings, and decisions in all open proceedings accessible
25 on its Internet Web site.